

Listen to the
Voice
of the...

**Nourishing
Earth!**

Awareness

Build awareness about the nourishing ability of the Earth:

- Our food supply comes from the Earth. Our soils and water need to be healthy to feed the global population.
- Small farms are suffering from the devastating impacts of climate change.
- Canadians threw away three million tons of food in 2019, according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Food prices continue to rise and food banks struggle to meet demand.
- Food security and food waste issues are being addressed by churches and community groups.

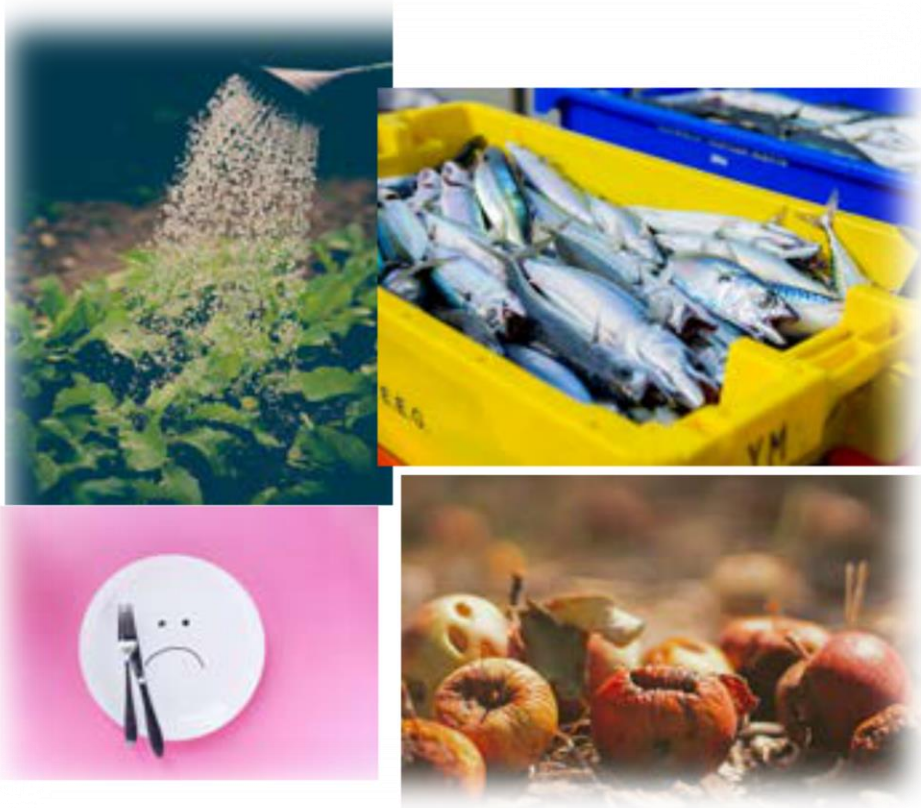
Listen

The United Church of Canada encourages us to reconnect and rethink our perception towards food:

“Food sovereignty centres on the idea that broken relationships must be rebuilt, including relationships between people and the land, as well as those between producers and consumers. At the same time, it calls us to transform our perspective on food—from food as a commodity to food as a right for all.” ([Food Security | The United Church of Canada](#))


Four areas of action are proposed by Pope Francis in his message for World Food Day 2021:

“I would like to indicate four areas where action is urgently needed: in the fields, at sea, at the table and in reducing food losses and waste. Our lifestyles and daily consumption practices influence global and environmental dynamics, but if we are to make a real difference, we must encourage producers and consumers to make ethical and sustainable choices and raise awareness among the younger generations of the important role they play in making a world without hunger a reality.” ([World Food Day 2021 | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#))



Get Inspired

Here are some inspiring biblical texts:



Give them some
food yourselves.

Mark 6:37


The land will never lack for needy persons; that is why I command you: “Open your hand freely to your poor and to your needy kin in your land.”

Deuteronomy 15:11

And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table.

Luke 16:20-21

Agabus went to the community in Antioch to announce that a great famine would affect the whole world. (Acts 11: 27-30). Indeed, this happened between the years 46 and 48 in various parts of the Roman Empire. A contribution was sent to Judea to the disciples of the Lord by the hands of Barnabas and Paul.



Life’s prime needs are water,
bread, and clothing, and also
a house for decent privacy.

Sirach 29:21

Take Action

(1) Raise awareness in your faith community about the issue surrounding food waste, and brainstorm ways you can address it. September 29th is the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, perfect opportunity to increase awareness about food related issues.

(2) Share examples of what other faith communities have done to address hunger related issues in their communities.

(3) Create a team or group, who advocate to ensure that everyone has access to healthy and nutritious food while also respecting the Earth's natural balance. Partnering with other organizations in the community will foster positive relationships and increase productivity towards a common goal.



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Initiatives

In 2008, The Rainbow Community Garden Project was started in Manitoba. This project was initiated by newcomers while supported and nurtured by the Knox United Church community and other partner organizations. In 2019, this initiative supported immigrants from 34 different countries to plant, grow, and harvest their own produce from various locations, producing 70,000 kg of food! ([Rainbow Community Garden – Knox United Church](#))

Fruits and vegetables in front of the church! On the church grounds in Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade in Quebec, we see fruit trees and vegetable gardens. This community is hosting their 7th annual Eco Fair (started in June 2016), the week surrounding World Environment Day. They open the festivities with an ecological Eucharistic celebration and organize a whole week full of ecological related kiosks, workshops, conferences, and coffee talk gatherings. In February, they host a Seed Festival where gardening enthusiasts can exchange seeds, share growing tips, and attend conferences. ([Salon Écolo – Initiatives écoresponsables à Sainte-Anne](#))



Free food pantries in front of churches:

July 2021, The First Lutheran Church in Toronto opened a food pantry, offering free non-perishable food for the community. Their slogan “Take what you need; give what you can” encourages their goal to improve food security and increase community spirit. ([Little Free Pantry – First Lutheran Toronto](#))

Throughout Canada, many Christian communities responded to the issue of food security during the pandemic. Setting up free food pantries as a means to support the most vulnerable members of their communities. Some churches also have self serve outdoor library boxes as well.

Community fridges to increase access to food! Installing fridges on or near church property!

The Dartmouth Community Fridge in Christ Church Nova Scotia is open 24/7 and allows those struggling with rising food costs to take what they need, and for community members to leave what they can. ([Fridge in Dartmouth ‘welcoming to anybody’](#))

The Cathedral Community Fridge in Regina Alberta has installed a community fridge in the parking lot of Holy Rosary Cathedral and 3 other locations throughout Regina. This initiative also reduces food waste. ([Cathedral Community Fridge Regina](#))

Vegetable production in a church! The church of Saint-Pacôme in Quebec is home to a vertical growing technology: vegetables are grown indoors without pesticides! The organization ‘Les Jardins du Clocher’ spearheaded this initiative which provides the community with greater food autonomy ([Jardins du Clocher](#)). Learn more about their project with this YouTube video (in French only): [Culture maraîchère dans l’église de Saint-Pacôme - YouTube](#)

Communicate

- Initiate, support, and participate in small scale food production projects. Start a small herb garden, or a tomato patch that are accessible for the elderly, as well as those with physical limitations.
- Support local family farms, local organic farms, and local farms that have social insertion programs whose mandate is to improve the lives of the disadvantaged.

